

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, January 11, 2010
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

February 8, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Dave Rollo, Andy Davis, Cynthia Schultz, Toby Strout, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Ted Mendoza, Amy Countryman, Heidi Russell Wagner,

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Patrick Shay (Planning)

Vice Chair Andy Davis called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Three representatives from Bloomington Cooperative Plots and Bart Ford (Coca Cola) were present as members of the public.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the December 2010 meeting were approved.

Bloomington Cooperative Plots

Pat Shay gave a brief presentation on the proposed Bloomington Cooperative Plots project. The petition is very early in the process so Planning does not yet have a great deal of detail.

The project will involve cooperative housing on a plot that has been purchased—located at the end of 8th St, near JB's Salvage. The petitioners are proposing a PUD—there is no use classification for this type of development so Planning is working with them to accommodate what they are trying to achieve.

The process will involve a preapplication process, review by the development review committee (city staff), then review by the Plan Commission at 2 separate meetings. Ultimately approval will be decided by City Council. It's early in the process but Pat conveyed some confidence that they would be able to come to some agreement—Planning will need to talk to council members, neighbors, and others before they can have a good understanding of what all the issues will be. Fire Dept access and utility issues may also be concerns in the process.

Danny Weddle from the Coop also spoke briefly about the project. In response to commissioner questions he noted that if the cooperative were unsuccessful, the land would likely revert to Bloomington Cooperative Living (a not-for-profit) or be donated to a land trust like Sycamore Land Trust.

Dave Rollo expressed support for the project as a model for a community approach to development.

Heidi suggested including a public education component as part of their petition.

If the commission wants to comment on the project, Pat recommended that commissioners attend the council and plan commission meetings. A letter of support would also be helpful. The project will be considered at the March and April Plan Commission meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to support the language that was shared over email. The recommendation was approved and will be shared with the Plan Commission and City Council.

Announcements:

Melissa has a student who is eager to do a documentary/media project. Commissioners may send ideas to Melissa.

Energy efficiency upgrades—Heidi followed up on a question from the last meeting about assessed value of energy improvements. There were no additional questions following the email that clarified the issue.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui described recent meetings regarding home energy efficiency, including one with Habitat and one with Earthcare. She is hoping to pull together the local groups working on this topic at a meeting in the near future. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss each group's focus and to develop and agree upon community goals for energy efficiency. She would like BCOS to have a presence in this effort as well.

Ted suggested getting in touch with Christie Cappel from Indy Habitat since they have built several efficient homes that may be of interest to the local chapter.

It was also suggested that we should follow up with participants in recent efficiency initiatives to get an estimate of what emissions impact has been. Jacqui will be following up again in a few months so could try to gather this information. To get a better response, we might send out postcards to warn people that we will be asking them to evaluate impacts of improvements on usage. Cynthia may also have information on how to estimate impacts of different improvements.

Dave P. noted concerns about radon if houses are made tighter.

We might also see if there's a way to have HAND look more closely at energy efficiency and other sustainability issues during their regular inspections. They might gather better information on utility usage, etc.

Jacqui also discussed an upcoming visit by biking consultant Mia Birk. BCOS has been asked to sponsor lunch. Sponsorship was approved up to up to \$250 with one abstention.

Committee Reports:

Jacqui talked about the potential to have a BCOS representative on the Environmental Commission's Planning Committee. The EC will meet soon to discuss this idea officially, so BCOS can address this next month.

Energy: Has not met since last meeting; having some trouble getting all members together.

Food: There will be a meeting of the group working on the food policy council at the Green Bean this Friday at 8:15.

Water: Nothing to report. The committee doesn't have many members—Melissa will send out info to all members; Jacqui can also share with the Volunteer Network to try to get membership outside the commission.

Communications: The Green Network News website (www.gnnbloomington.com) is up and running. It needs some improvement but it's got the basics.

STAR: Cynthia noted that the committee would like to expand the report. Jill Minor (one of Bill's students) is interested in working on the report. She has met with Jacqui and will start working on the report soon, starting with the energy section.

On the topic of joint marketing campaign—Jacqui suggested postponing until the committees have time to meet and talk about their goals for the year.

New Business

George noted that Bob Bent (a former commissioner) passed away and suggested that BCOS send a card. Jacqui and George will coordinate.

Andy raised the issue of formula funding for buses. IU ridership is not being counted in the city's calculations so we are missing out on federal funding. He suggested having someone from IU come to talk about the details of this issue so BCOS can decide whether to take action. Andy will share some information on the topic.

Dave R. suggested scheduling an update on the Platinum Bike Task Force

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.